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Sheriff

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Operations Chief

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Yuma County Sheriff's Office

United States House Committee on the Judiciary

"The Biden Border Crisis: Part Two"

February 23, 2023
2:00 PM

Opening Statement

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman Jim Jordan, Ranking Member Jerrold "Jerry" Nadler and distinguished members of this committee. I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee regarding the status of our southern border from the perspective of our community and local law enforcement.

I have served our border community for over 38 years with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, and prior to that, as a member of our military serving in the United States Marine Corps stationed here at M.C.A.S Yuma, located within Yuma County, Arizona.

I have always been a genuine believer in my Oath of Office to protect my Country, and now Yuma County as the duly elected Sheriff for the past 11 years. I am an active member of the Arizona Sheriff's Association, and currently serve as an Executive Committee Member for the National Sheriffs' Association, Board Member and past chairman of the National Sheriffs' Association Border Security Committee, Executive Board Member of the Western States Sheriffs' Association and an active member and past chairman of the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition.

All these associations share 3 Objectives: Public Safety, National Security and Humanitarian.

In my submitted brief, I have shared with you all an overview of Yuma County and the history of our border. I have personally experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly of being a border county. Unfortunately, my office has always had to deal with border-related crimes, death investigations, and the smuggling of illicit drugs, humans, weapons and cash by our Transnational Organizations, i.e., criminal cartels.

I am proud of our relationships with all our federal, state and local law enforcement partners that serve our communities. I want to take this opportunity to thank our Customs & Border Patrol Officers and Agents who have worked tirelessly and diligently to protect this great nation. I also want to thank all my fellow Sheriffs that stand united for the Rule of Law in the protection of their communities. And, finally, I want to thank my constituents for their patience and support in a time of crisis and disarray.

To best understand my presentation, you need to understand where we were over 2 years ago. My county was one on the safest border counties based on our collective governmental efforts, messaging and yes, 100% consequence delivery in enforcement efforts against the criminal element supported by the Rule of Law.

Apprehensions by USBP were an average of roughly 40 a day. When the policies of this administration changed, our federal agents immediately averaged 200+ a day, then 400+ a day, to over 1,000 a day in apprehensions.

Direct Impact to My County/Office

The citizens of Yuma County and law enforcement faced a huge migrant crisis along the river corridor. Last federal fiscal year, there were 310,000 give ups. So far this federal fiscal year, we are currently at 93,000. In Yuma County, we had 28,000 known got aways last federal fiscal year, and 5,000 so far this federal fiscal year.

Yuma County is an agricultural community supplying 90% of the winter leafy greens to the whole of the United States during the winter season. Because of the proximity of the fields to the river corridor, it's visually an environmental disaster on the river area ecosystem with tons of trash, pharmaceuticals, and biological waste being left by those crossing the river illegally. Yuma County Emergency Management alone has had to budget general fund dollars to lease porta johns to keep individuals from defecating in crops **($70,000.00 impact).**

The price tag for migrants being illegally smuggled by the cartels begins at $6,000 per UDA and up.

These smugglers include juveniles being recruited via social media by the cartels to smuggle humans and narcotics into the country. Children are the pawns in the Cartels money-making schemes.

Roughly 400 to 800 juveniles cross our border every day to go to school. In Yuma County, the cartels use them to body conceal/carry narcotics across and tell them that the Federal government won't charge them with a crime due to being a juvenile.

Border related bookings of undocumented immigrants committing state crimes in Yuma County (Detention) Costs

- $445,122.00 for fiscal year 21
- $323,325.00 for fiscal year 22

These charges included sexual exploitation of minors, narcotics charges, assaults, kidnapping, burglary, and theft cases, all of which is absorbed by my local taxpayers.

Our Federal partners across the southwest border made **40,359** arrests of individuals with criminal convictions or individuals that were apprehended and wanted by local law enforcement.

Narcotics Seizures

- In 2021, over 5 million dosages of Fentanyl were seized on the Arizona border.
- In 2022, over 12,000 pounds (54,431,084.40 dosage units) of Fentanyl was seized on the southwest border.

From a local perspective, there were 50 overdose deaths in 2022 in Yuma County.

	2021	2022
Fentanyl	11 lbs.	10 lbs.
Heroin	7 lbs.	5 grams
Cocaine	65 lbs.	10 lbs.
Meth	708 lbs.	740 lbs.

Immigrant Death / Murder Investigations

700+ deaths in the desert along southwest border

- 2021 = 30
- 2022 = 70
- 2023 = 3 YTD

Smuggled Migrants Encountered

- 2021 = 1,821 encounters with smuggled undocumented immigrants referred to USBP
- 2022 = 4,650 encounters with smuggled undocumented immigrants referred to USBP
- **911 calls from smuggled immigrants abandoned in the Desert** = 759

Financial Crimes

In 2021, I authorized an effort to identify and combat the influx of illegal monies into Yuma County. The ensuing effort resulted in the discovery of the use of local banking institutions to move monies from the United States into Mexico.

In the four month period of September 2021 to January 2022, two people and one business moved **$664,000** from U.S. banks into Mexico. In the two month period of April-June 2021, one business alone moved **$329,000**.

As the initiative expanded and matured, in 2022 three people were discovered to have moved about **$1,600,000** in a 10 month period, in addition to another estimated **$950,000** from other accounts in a 4 month period for an estimated total over **$2.5 million**.

Our initiative continues and in the latter part of 2022, another 11 individuals were identified as

moving roughly **$3 million** dollars between the U.S. and Mexico in a 3 month period; and one company was identified as moving **$1.9 million** in a 90 day period.

These monies are but the tip of the iceberg, and does not take into account the amount of monies moving through Yuma County crypto-ATMs, which to our estimate exceeds **$500,000** in a 6-8 month period.

Our effort in this arena continues with our Federal partners and the Yuma County Attorney’s Office.

Agents, DPS Officers, Deputies and Local Law Enforcement Officers are facing dangerous scenarios/criminals as a direct result of an “Open Border” exploited by these criminal cartels for violence, fear and greed.

Sheriffs, including myself, collectively met personally with Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas when he assumed his position of trust and shared a 16-point action plan of success on the border, which is included in your packet, only to find out he never looked at it.

By allowing our border security mission and immigration laws to be discretionary, as it is being done under this administration’s policies, just allows criminal cartels to continue to be the true winners.

Their exploitation of mankind is simply “Modern Day Narco Slavery”. Allowing thousands of pounds of illicit drugs into our country that continue to erode the core-values of families, schools and subsequently killing Americans on an average of 270 every day is completely unacceptable at any level. Experiencing migrant deaths without a reasonable process while U.S. Congress and this Administration intentionally avoids reality is gross negligence.

Our voice of reason has been buried during what we call an “Intellectual Avoidance” by this Administration, and yes, members of U.S. Congress.

Communities have been neglected and abandoned, relying solely on our own local and state resources to address a border that is in crisis mode with no real tangible plan by the Secretary of Homeland Security actually being shared or implemented to address these impacts.

Our southern border, against all public comfort statements out of Washington D.C., is in the worst shape I have ever seen in my career.

When one looks at Public Safety, National Security, and Humanitarian, our southern border can only be described as the largest crime scene in the country.

The morale of our Federal agents is extremely low and the collective frustration is very high amongst law enforcement at all levels and most importantly, our citizens.

I am a true believer that Customs and Border Patrol are the experts on Border Security while Sheriffs and Police Chiefs are the experts on community. Together, this is a recipe of success for all communities.

Our efforts and team work philosophy with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners has proven to be beneficial in bringing overdue solutions to an unsecure border.

Unfortunately, border security has become a discretionary program for those federally elected leaders and policy makers that have been entrusted to protect our freedoms and liberties.

As a Sheriff elected by the good people of my county, my biggest fear—which is shared with all Sheriffs—is the loss of life to one of our citizens and/or law enforcement officers/agents that would be attributed to a border that is NOT secure. We have seen it happen on more than one occasion.

One would hope the priority of securing our border doesn’t become just about a price tag and/or political posturing, but rather the legal and moral requirement to safeguard all of America, which so many heroic Americans have already paid the ultimate price for.

Today’s opportunity to address this committee in a border community outside of the Washington D.C. environment instills fresh hope that our voice does matter and on behalf of the citizens of Yuma County, Arizona and beyond, we hope that you will carry out your Constitutional mandate to bring positive change to an overdue vulnerable situation.

In closing, my fellow Sheriffs across the border and I have tried to partner with this administration, to include the President of the United States, with high hopes to share a collective message, collective action plan, support the rule of law, prioritize our southern border, and provide updates regarding community impacts and concerns with little to no success.

I will leave you with this final statement. We all serve the priorities of Americans based on our shared Oaths of Office to keep them safe, enhance their quality of life, and support the Rule of Law absent political affiliation or the concern of reelection.

I ask each one of you to reflect on this statement as you serve those that placed you into the office of trust.

Once again, I thank this committee for the invitation and opportunity to provide testimony. And now, I stand ready to answer any questions by members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheriff Leon N. Wilmot

Attachments

1. Sheriff Leon N. Wilmot Biography
2. SCAAP Statistics Summary for Arizona Sheriffs, 2009–2019
3. Letter from Nation’s Sheriffs, February 9, 2023
4. SWBSC Vote of No Confidence in Vice President Kamala Harris
5. WSSA Vote of No Confidence in DHS Alejandro Mayorkas
6. Migrant Death location map 2021
7. Migrant Death location map 2022
8. Miscellaneous Photographs

SCAAP

BJA FY Reporting Period	2009 07/01/07 - 06/30/08			2010 07/01/08 - 06/30/09			2011 07/01/09 - 06/30/10			2012 07/01/10 - 06/30/11		
	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT
Apache County	$ 59,394.00	$ 8,875.00	$ 50,519.00	$ 191,805.00	$ 15,594.00	$ 176,211.00	$ 154,185.00	$ 11,619.00	$ 142,566.00	$ 59,565.00	$ 4,883.00	$ 54,682.00
Cochise County	$ 480,173.96	$ 664,261.00	$ (184,087.04)	$ 791,271.71	$ 468,199.00	$ 323,072.71	$ 878,255.26	$ 70,214.00	$ 808,041.26			
Coconino County	$ 314,100.00	$ 64,977.00	$ 249,123.00	$ 230,100.00	$ 27,671.00	$ 202,429.00	$ 191,250.00	$ 17,185.00	$ 174,065.00	$ 99,825.00	$ 6,936.00	$ 92,889.00
Gila County	$ 108,058.14	$ 19,403.00	$ 88,655.14	$ 220,705.20	$ 37,408.00	$ 183,297.20	$ 60,475.41	$ 10,012.00	$ 50,463.41	$ 69,598.62	$ 9,700.00	$ 59,898.62
Graham County	$ 41,415.00	$ 5,737.00	$ 35,678.00	$ 157,850.00	$ 16,721.00	$ 141,129.00	$ 132,495.00	$ 9,909.00	$ 122,586.00	$ 62,755.00	$ 3,458.00	$ 59,297.00
Greenlee County	$ 4,650.00	$ 1,402.00	$ 3,248.00	$ 1,050.00	$ 314.00	$ 736.00	$ 6,650.00	$ 1,759.00	$ 4,891.00			
La Paz County												
Maricopa County	$ 49,607,648.00	$ 4,006,872.00	$ 45,600,776.00	$ 47,016,440.70	$ 2,819,911.00	$ 44,196,529.70	$ 39,744,804.85	$ 2,241,068.00	$ 37,503,736.85	$ 26,997,649.55	$ 1,281,403.00	$ 25,716,246.55
Mohave County	$ 312,808.16	$ 24,135.00	$ 288,673.16	$ 402,372.32	$ 29,769.00	$ 372,603.32	$ 296,947.84	$ 20,515.00	$ 276,432.84	$ 163,268.00	$ 10,077.00	$ 153,191.00
Navajo County	$ 894,187.11	$ 50,457.00	$ 843,730.11	$ 825,161.42	$ 47,844.00	$ 777,317.42	$ 676,438.08	$ 38,299.00	$ 638,139.08	$ 410,254.77	$ 16,230.00	$ 394,024.77
Pima County	$ 8,014,395.00	$ 832,379.00	$ 7,182,016.00	$ 7,786,850.00	$ 709,628.00	$ 7,077,222.00	$ 5,417,730.00	$ 429,695.00	$ 4,988,035.00	$ 3,830,950.00	$ 247,571.00	$ 3,583,379.00
Pinal County	$ 1,176,279.72	$ 215,025.00	$ 961,254.72	$ 831,441.24	$ 107,290.00	$ 724,151.24	$ 898,178.40	$ 115,075.00	$ 783,103.40	$ 905,514.12	$ 104,266.00	$ 801,248.12
Santa Cruz County	$ 507,130.00	$ 49,657.00	$ 457,473.00	$ 559,780.00	$ 103,383.00	$ 456,397.00	$ 397,475.00	$ 61,261.00	$ 336,214.00	$ 271,895.00	$ 40,000.00	$ 231,895.00
Yavapai County	$ 1,671,956.00	$ 239,719.00	$ 1,432,237.00	$ 1,261,393.00	$ 178,483.00	$ 1,082,910.00	$ 1,116,270.00	$ 118,583.00	$ 997,687.00	$ 537,279.00	$ 41,853.00	$ 495,426.00
Yuma County	$ 1,724,811.78	$ 162,766.00	$ 1,562,045.78	$ 1,356,300.42	$ 133,551.00	$ 1,222,749.42	$ 1,183,717.40	$ 93,406.00	$ 1,090,311.40	$ 1,314,780.22	$ 84,202.00	$ 1,230,578.22
TOTALS	**$ 64,917,006.87**	**$ 6,345,665.00**	**$ 58,571,341.87**	**$ 61,632,521.01**	**$ 4,695,766.00**	**$ 56,936,755.01**	**$ 51,154,872.24**	**$ 3,238,600.00**	**$ 47,916,272.24**	**$ 34,723,334.28**	**$ 1,850,579.00**	**$ 32,872,755.28**

BJA FY Reporting Period	2013 07/01/11 - 06/30/12			2014 07/01/12 - 06/30/13			2015 07/01/13 - 06/30/14			2016 07/01/14 - 06/30/15		
	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT
Apache County	$ 84,873.00	$ 6,820.00	$ 78,053.00	$ 94,278.00	$ 4,959.00	$ 89,319.00	$ 53,979.00	$ 4,861.00	$ 49,118.00	$ 78,432.00	$ 10,057.00	$ 68,375.00
Cochise County	$ 443,832.79	$ 31,423.00	$ 412,409.79	$ 282,990.61	$ 18,759.00	$ 264,231.61	$ 801,734.50	$ 48,445.00	$ 753,289.50	$ 722,737.34	$ 52,083.00	$ 670,654.34
Coconino County	$ 132,300.00	$ 9,008.00	$ 123,292.00	$ 252,450.00	$ 14,321.00	$ 238,129.00	$ 155,025.00	$ 9,675.00	$ 145,350.00	$ 62,625.00	$ 4,578.00	$ 58,047.00
Gila County	$ 78,284.79	$ 9,649.00	$ 68,635.79	$ 26,222.40	$ 2,661.00	$ 23,561.40	$ 72,767.16	$ 6,093.00	$ 66,674.16	$ 84,785.76	$ 9,308.00	$ 75,477.76
Graham County	$ 58,630.00	$ 3,800.00	$ 54,830.00	$ 51,480.00	$ 3,586.00	$ 47,894.00	$ 9,460.00	$ 613.00	$ 8,847.00	$ 25,300.00	$ 1,687.00	$ 23,613.00
Greenlee County				$ 11,350.00	$ 2,336.00	$ 9,014.00	$ 29,950.00	$ 6,800.00	$ 23,150.00	$ 25,250.00	$ 6,128.00	$ 19,122.00
La Paz County												
Maricopa County	$ 24,116,693.25	$ 1,127,899.00	$ 22,988,794.25	$ 25,435,133.05	$ 832,073.00	$ 24,603,060.05	$ 21,772,509.25	$ 792,124.00	$ 20,980,385.25	$ 17,734,766.90	$ 737,649.00	$ 16,997,117.90
Mohave County	$ 175,729.68	$ 11,226.00	$ 164,503.68	$ 161,335.44	$ 7,306.00	$ 154,029.44				$ 48,580.56	$ 2,783.00	$ 45,797.56
Navajo County	$ 395,957.08	$ 17,375.00	$ 378,582.08	$ 269,193.35	$ 12,248.00	$ 256,945.35	$ 156,180.03	$ 7,143.00	$ 149,037.03	$ 160,010.99	$ 6,870.00	$ 153,140.99
Pima County	$ 5,210,330.00	$ 310,851.00	$ 4,899,479.00	$ 4,752,265.00	$ 227,337.00	$ 4,524,928.00	$ 4,394,585.00	$ 203,949.00	$ 4,190,636.00	$ 3,676,250.00	$ 213,593.00	$ 3,462,657.00
Pinal County	$ 779,196.60	$ 99,032.00	$ 680,164.60	$ 534,374.40	$ 50,354.00	$ 484,020.40	$ 707,211.12	$ 64,543.00	$ 642,668.12	$ 344,361.36	$ 45,188.00	$ 299,173.36
Santa Cruz County	$ 278,525.00	$ 16,426.00	$ 262,099.00	$ 427,505.00	$ 27,690.00	$ 399,815.00	$ 358,930.00	$ 33,204.00	$ 325,726.00	$ 418,080.00	$ 38,003.00	$ 380,077.00
Yavapai County	$ 679,558.00	$ 51,113.00	$ 628,445.00	$ 524,086.00	$ 28,901.00	$ 495,185.00	$ 601,111.00	$ 37,707.00	$ 563,404.00	$ 702,073.00	$ 49,576.00	$ 652,497.00
Yuma County	$ 991,706.06	$ 73,752.00	$ 917,954.06	$ 965,618.84	$ 57,747.00	$ 907,871.84	$ 1,071,221.16	$ 65,516.00	$ 1,005,705.16	$ 1,076,078.24	$ 72,570.00	$ 1,003,508.24
TOTALS	**$ 33,425,616.25**	**$ 1,768,374.00**	**$ 31,657,242.25**	**$ 33,788,282.09**	**$ 1,290,278.00**	**$ 32,498,004.09**	**$ 30,184,663.22**	**$ 1,280,673.00**	**$ 28,903,990.22**	**$ 25,159,331.15**	**$ 1,250,073.00**	**$ 23,909,258.15**

BJA FY Reporting Period	2017 07/01/15 - 06/30/16			2018 07/01/16 - 06/30/17			2019 07/07/17 - 06/30/18			2020 07/01/18 - 06/30/19		
	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT	REQUESTED	RECEIVED	DEFICIT
Apache County	$ 20,577.00	$ 1,125.00	$ 19,452.00	$ 28,665.00	$ 2,549.00	$ 26,116.00	$ 26,000.00	$ 3,025.00	$ 22,975.00	$ 1,812,886.00	$ 1,951.00	$ 1,810,935.00
Cochise County	$ 931,683.59	$ 88,298.00	$ 843,385.59	$ 578,346.78	$ 46,285.00	$ 532,061.78	$ 209,655.93	$ 19,552.00	$ 190,103.93	$ 6,084,452.89	$ 7,507.00	$ 6,076,945.89
Coconino County												
Gila County	$ 120,610.89	$ 11,788.00	$ 108,822.89	$ 81,180.00	$ 7,448.00	$ 73,732.00	$ 10,260.00	$ 1,081.00	$ 9,179.00	$ -	$ -	$ -
Graham County	$ 25,080.00	$ 2,785.00	$ 22,295.00	$ 43,560.00	$ 5,955.00	$ 37,605.00	$ 34,440.00	$ 5,916.00	$ 28,524.00	$ 3,224,251.10	$ 7,953.00	$ 3,216,298.10
Greenlee County	$ 10,350.00	$ 4,332.00	$ 6,018.00	$ 22,380.00	$ 7,703.00	$ 14,677.00	$ 1,860.00	$ 602.00	$ 1,258.00	$ -	$ 8,760.00	$ (8,760.00)
La Paz County												
Maricopa County	$ 16,866,193.20	$ 859,765.00	$ 16,006,428.20				$ 12,991,072.20	$ 711,355.00	$ 12,279,717.20	$ 252,710,943.96	$ 582,301.00	$ 252,128,642.96
Mohave County	$ 18,418.62	$ 1,314.00	$ 17,104.62	$ 57,031.58	$ 4,262.00	$ 52,769.58	$ 1,337.20	$ 82.00	$ 1,255.20	$ 14,347,000.40	$ 3,539.00	$ 14,343,461.40
Navajo County	$ 225,958.23	$ 10,132.00	$ 215,826.23	$ 260,820.00	$ 9,927.00	$ 250,893.00	$ 162,015.00	$ 5,152.00	$ 156,863.00			
Pima County	$ 3,447,461.28	$ 254,799.00	$ 3,192,662.28	$ 3,883,855.44	$ 294,687.00	$ 3,589,168.44	$ 3,269,797.80	$ 272,451.00	$ 2,997,346.80	$ 24,115,555.75	$ 232,297.00	$ 23,883,258.75
Pinal County				$ 481,951.80	$ 55,113.00	$ 426,838.80	$ 329,326.50	$ 58,193.00	$ 271,133.50	$ 13,823,976.90	$ 16,721.00	$ 13,807,255.90
Santa Cruz County							$ 1,183,455.00	$ 179,085.00	$ 1,004,370.00	$ 1,253,070.00	$ 426,888.00	$ 826,182.00
Yavapai County	$ 587,233.00	$ 42,850.00	$ 544,383.00	$ 575,250.00	$ 61,899.00	$ 513,351.00	$ 381,750.00	$ 43,469.00	$ 338,281.00	$ 7,304,175.57	$ 38,203.00	$ 7,265,972.57
Yuma County	$ 975,913.23	$ 55,611.00	$ 920,302.23	$ 667,550.39	$ 53,945.00	$ 613,605.39	$ 418,286.05	$ 33,739.00	$ 384,547.05	$ 843,095.08	$ 35,202.00	$ 807,893.08
TOTALS	**$ 23,229,479.04**	**$ 1,332,799.00**	**$ 21,896,680.04**	**$ 6,680,590.99**	**$ 549,773.00**	**$ 6,130,817.99**	**$ 19,019,255.68**	**$ 1,333,702.00**	**$ 17,685,553.68**	**$ 325,519,407.65**	**$ 1,361,322.00**	**$ 324,158,085.65**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2023

Nation's Sheriffs Call for the Eradication of Drug Cartels, Starting with the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels

The American Sheriff Alliance implores for action to stop the flow of illicit narcotics into the United States by Mexican Cartels

(Washington, DC) – The American Sheriff Alliance met in Washington, DC, last week to discuss the continued rise in overdose deaths and violence plaguing their jurisdictions in all areas of the country. These troubling patterns can all be traced to two main drivers of illicit narcotics into the United States – the Mexican Sinaloa and the Jalisco New Generation Cartels, both Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) which are headquartered south of the United States border with Mexico.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists killed 2,977 innocent people and our nation was outraged. America's response included declaring a war on terrorism and bringing justice to the victims of this unthinkable tragedy by holding terrorists and terrorist countries accountable.

Last year, on December 14, 2022, the White House issued a statement regarding the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) release of provisional drug overdose death data for the 12-month period ending in August 2022. Over 107,000 overdose deaths were recorded in this one-year period, with most attributed to illicit synthetic drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine, often in combination with other drugs, including cocaine and heroin. Despite the incredible number of deaths, which can be directly attributed to the trafficking of illegal narcotics into the United States by the Mexican Cartels there has been little call to action or change in foreign policy to address this alarming issue. This crisis has caused 35 more times the amount of death to American citizens in a one-year period than was inflicted upon the U.S. on September 11th by Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden.

The Mexican drug cartels, as well-documented in the successful prosecution of Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera, also known as El Chapo, operate sophisticated crime operations fueled by fear, terror, intimidation, extortion, and murder. These criminal organizations are directly responsible for the increases in deaths, human trafficking, sex trafficking, and unprecedented violence occurring in cities and counties across our nation. These cartels and their operatives are operating with disastrous effects not just on our southern border, but their influence can also be felt across our northern border and maritime borders as they seek to exploit all avenues to deliver lethal narcotics and violent criminals into our communities.

Sheriff Greg Champagne, of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, and President of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) stated, "We can no longer allow these murderers to terrorize our communities. We need every American to join us in demanding our government focus on this crisis and take whatever actions are necessary to eliminate these criminal networks and operations."

"This is not a partisan issue. This is a life-and-death issue," said Sheriff Bill Brown, of Santa Barbara County, California, and Vice President of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA). "Two criminal organizations, the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels, operate in Mexico with near impunity, producing and trafficking fentanyl and other deadly drugs that are killing more than 100,000 Americans every year. America's sheriffs are calling for meaningful change in our nation's

foreign policy. The federal government must put greater pressure on the Mexican government to take aggressive action to disrupt and destroy these unlawful cartels. The current situation is intolerable and cannot stand."

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, of Grand County, Colorado, and President of the Western States Sheriffs' Association (WSSA) said, "These cartels are operating in every part of our nation. It's not an urban, suburban, or rural issue. These massive, well-financed criminal enterprises kill, enslave, and destroy families and communities. We need the people of the United States to demand , that our government commit the necessary resources to eliminate these organizations here and abroad as they did following the horrific events of 9/11.

"This is not an immigration issue; this is a public safety and public health issue. It's not just the violence and drugs, it's the sexual assaults, human trafficking, enslavement, and fear and terror that are destroying neighborhoods here in the United States," stated Sheriff Eddie Guerra, of Hidalgo County, Texas, and Chairman of the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition (SWBSC). "We are asking every person who knows someone who has died or family who has suffered at the hands of these criminal organizations, to make their voices heard with their federal, state, and local elected officials who have the power to create the necessary change."

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas, of Zavala County, Texas, and Chairman of the Texas Border Sheriffs' Coalition (TBSC) said, "Americans can save lives by calling upon the President of the United States, U.S. Senators, and representatives in Congress and demanding immediate, comprehensive action to identify and destroy these criminal operations, wherever they may exist. Until our elected officials stand up to fight this epidemic sweeping the nation, we will continue to set records related to the number of our loved ones we continue to lose each year at the hand of these violent cartels."

The American Sheriff Alliance is imploring the public to demand their elected officials use every available sanction and accountability tools at their disposal in combating the atrocities committed against our country and its citizens by the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels. Without such action, these dangerous cartels will continue to destroy the very fabric of our families and communities.

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Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition
Sheriff Clint McDonald
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*The **American Sheriff Alliance** consists of sheriffs, leadership, and chief law enforcement officers from the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, the Western State Sheriffs' Association, the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition, and the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. This alliance was formed to advocate for policy change and reform in order to keep our nation's citizens safe as well as support the men and women who protect and serve the United States of America.*

Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition

P.O. Box 821 ★ Junction, TX 76849
Tel: (325) 215-2403

April 19, 2022

Whereas, the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition represents Sheriffs from 4 states whose counties are within 25 miles of the Southern Border or contain a permanent federal checkpoint,

Our membership works together with our federal partners to secure our communities and country amidst the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking in order to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States And,

Whereas, this is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our dedicated Officers and Agents from Customs and Border Patrol and our Nation's Sheriffs are coming together to share a common mission to secure our borders and communities. A collective effort to deter the northward flow of illegal immigrants and drugs continues to be a priority for these law enforcement professionals. Over the last year, the problem at our southern border has continued to get worse with an increase in illicit smuggling and criminal violence challenging every community within our nation And,

Whereas, Today, we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of policies compared to past years. Over a 379% increase of border encounters compared to the previous fiscal year. The getaway numbers are staggering resulting in dangerous criminals flowing into our communities leaving innocent Americans vulnerable. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ countries and some from countries of special interest with terrorist ties. The Vice President, Kamala Harris was appointed and sworn into her position under her Oath of Office to protect the Rule of Law and Americans. As our nation's Vice President, she is responsible for carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since her appointment, we have seen her policies enacted that are focused on her personal and political ideologies that only serve to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task And,

Whereas, America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border Patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming rate each and every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.

Clint McDonald
Executive Director

2020-2022
SWBSC Officers

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas
Chairman
Zavala County, TX

Sheriff Eddie Guerra
1st Vice Chairman
Hidalgo County, TX

Sheriff Mark Dannels
Secretary
Cochise County, AZ

Sheriff David Black
Treasurer
Otero County, NM

Sheriff Joe F. Martinez
Director
Val Verde County, TX

Sheriff Leon Wilmot
Director (PC)
Yuma County, AZ

www.bordersheriffs.us

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION

After witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, The Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

Furthermore, we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border.
Finally, A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's Border Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY B Y THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION AT THE BUSINESS MEETING IN EL PASO, TEXAS ON APRIL 12, 2022

William C. McDonald
Executive Director
Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition

WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

474 Rogers Canyon Road
Laramie, Wyoming 82072
Telephone: 307 760 4075
www.westernsheriffs.org

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Lewis and Clark County, MT

1st VICE PRESIDENT
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Grand County, CO

SECRETARY
Sheriff Corey Helton
Lea County, NM

TREASURER
Sheriff Gary Betencourt
Gilliam County, OR

SGT AT ARMS
Sheriff Ray Del Bosque Jr
Zapata County, TX

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Sheriff Fred Lamphere
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Sheriff David Groves
Montana
Sheriff Tony Harbaugh
Nebraska
Sheriff Bill Brueggemann
Nevada
Sheriff Ron Unger
New Mexico
Sheriff Tony Mace
North Dakota
Sheriff Pat Rummell
Oklahoma
Sheriff Shannon Smith
Oregon
Sheriff John Gautney
South Dakota
Sheriff Fred Lamphere
Texas
Sheriff Gerald Yezak
Utah
Sheriff Steven White
Washington
Sheriff Dave Brown
Wyoming

Western States Sheriffs' Association

Position Paper

No Confidence in DHS Secretary Mayorkas

The Western States Sheriffs' Association represents Sheriffs from 17 States. Our membership continues to work together to assist our nation's southern border Sheriffs in the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 10 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the drug cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, slavery, and prostitution in order to pay back the drug cartels for the privilege of being brought to the U.S.

This is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our Border Patrol, southern border Sheriffs and Immigration and Customs enforcement exists. A concerted effort to curb the northward flow of illegal Immigrants has long been the focus of these enforcement officers. For the past several years, much effort and financial resources was focused on the southern border and a great deal of progress was made in limiting the number of illegal crossings.

Today we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of efforts of the past several years. Over a million illegal crossings already this year. Hundreds of thousands of illegal Immigrants who we know for sure entered this country illegally and were never intercepted by law enforcement. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ different countries and some of those are from special interest countries with terrorist ties. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas was appointed and sworn into his position to follow the rule of law in securing our nation. Secretary Mayorkas is the head of the Department of Homeland Security and tasked with carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since his appointment we have seen his policies enacted that are personal and political ideologies that continue to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task.

America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave, and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the patchwork of interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming level each and every day. Statics now show that more people have died in the U.S. from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the U.S. at alarming and unacceptable levels. Violent crime is increasing in major cities and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media when the media exhibits the courage to report it.

After witnessing this disaster over the past several months and listening to the continued rhetoric and Intellectual dishonesty from Secretary Mayorkas, The Western States Sheriffs' Association, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having ***NO*** confidence in the ability of the Secretary Mayorkas, and his leadership within the Department of Homeland Security, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

We call on President Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Secretary Mayorkas from his leadership position and appoint a new leader at the Department of Homeland Security who recognizes, respects and will enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand a new leader who will work, together with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Border Patrol, to regain control of our nation's southern border.

A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's western Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand ready to work with our federal enforcement partners and the administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

Sheriff Leo Dutton
President
Western States Sheriffs Association

James F Pond, Sheriff Retired
Executive Director
Western States Sheriffs Association

2021 Migrant Deaths
Updated 12/21/2021 A39
Legend
Recovery Site
Bard
Norton
2021-40588
2021-40588
Winterhaven
Buckshot
Dome
Roll
Gila River
2021-69642
2021-69642
Tacna
2021-85776
2021-85776
Yuma
El Prado Estates
Wellton
Asher
Fortuna Foothills
2021-30151
2021-30151
Somerton
2021-73258
2021-73258
2021-40166
2021-40166
YPD 2021-42785
YPD 2021-42785
2021-49550
2021-49550
2021-26441
2021-26441
2021-61307
2021-61307
2021-73260
YPD 2021-37463
2021-73260
2021-73187
2021-73187
2021-43487
2021-67008
2021-67008
2021-43337
2021-43337
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2021-70152
2021-70152
2021-50754
2021-50754
2021-61331
2021-61331
2021-102483
2021-102483
2021-49441
2021-58508
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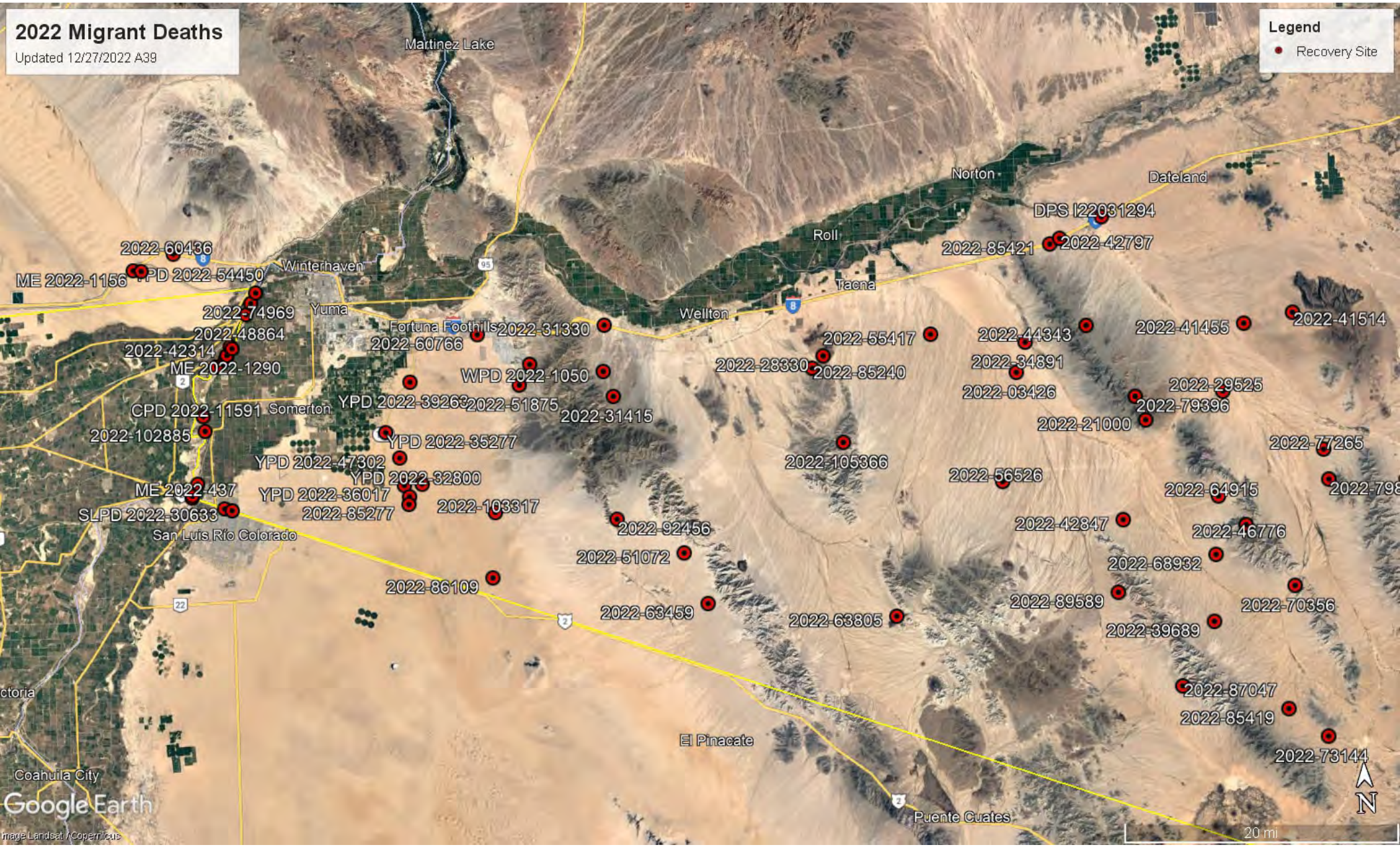
Cerro Pinto
El Pinacate
2021-50135
2021-50135
Google Earth
mage Landsat / Copernicus
N
10 mi


2022 Migrant Deaths
Updated 12/27/2022 A39
Legend
Recovery Site
Martinez Lake
Norton
Dateland
DPS I22031294
Roll
2022-85421
2022-42797
2022-60436
ME 2022-1156
YPD 2022-54450
Winterhaven
Tacna
2022-74969
Yuma
Wellton
2022-48864
Fortuna Foothills
2022-31330
2022-60766
2022-55417
2022-44343
2022-41455
2022-41514
2022-42314
ME 2022-1290
2022-28330
2022-85240
2022-34891
WPD 2022-1050
2022-03426
2022-29525
YPD 2022-39263
2022-51875
2022-79396
CPD 2022-11591
Somerton
2022-31415
2022-21000
2022-102885
YPD 2022-35277
2022-77265
2022-105366
YPD 2022-47302
2022-56526
YPD 2022-32800
2022-64915
ME 2022-437
YPD 2022-36017
2022-103317
2022-85277
SLPD 2022-30633
San Luis Río Colorado
2022-92456
2022-42847
2022-46776
2022-51072
2022-68932
2022-86109
2022-89589
2022-70356
2022-63459
2022-63805
2022-39689
2022-87047
2022-85419
El Pinacate
2022-73144
Coahuila City
Puente Cuates
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
20 mi
N

BUCKEYE CAM
Camera 2 (YUMA)
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3/29/2022
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74°F

BUCKEYE CAM
Camera 7 (YUMA)
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12/3/2021
6:38:51
46°F